

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03541 221730Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4656

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3541

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US
SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 170055

1. READ REFTEL TO PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS (WHO HAD ASKED ME TO COME SEE THEM) MORNING JULY 22. PRESIDENT'S REACTION WAS THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON BASIC ISSUES OF TERRITORY AND PALESTINIANS. HOW THEN WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE CONFERENCE AT GENEVA? HE HAD ENVISIONED GENEVA AS CROWNING AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN PRINCIPLE IN ADVANCE. IF THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT, GENEVA WOULD BE WASTE OF TIME. THE IDEA OF DIALOGUE WITHOUT FUNDAMENTAL PRIOR UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN TRIED ALL TOO OFTEN IN LEBANON AND DID NOT WORK. DID I STILL THINK A SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE?

2. I SAID I HAD IMPRESSION THIS FIRST CONTACT WITH BEGIN WAS MORE TO ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND SET STAGE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS DETAILS. DETAILS WOULD BE FOCUS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT, DURING WHICH I GATHERED WE MIGHT HAVE SOME IDEAS OF OUR OWN TO PROPOSE. I

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STILL THOUGHT A SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE AND WAS STILL WILLING TO GIVE EVEN ODDS. WITHOUT MINIMIZING DIFFICULTIES, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION TO FIND SOLUTION AND THOUGHT WE COULD COUNT ON HIM TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO THAT END.

3. SARKIS AND BOUTROS BOTH ZEROED-IN ON BEGIN'S

STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT OPPOSE PROPOSAL FOR LEBANESE PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. BOUTROS EXPRESSED IRRITATION WITH FORMULATION, GIVEN FACT SUCH PARTICIPATION HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AND OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR INVITATION PRESENTED TO US. PRESIDENT ON OTHER HAND SAID HE DID NOT MIND FORMULATION BECAUSE IT IMPLIED ISRAEL ACCEPTANCE OF LEBANESE CONTENTION THAT THERE NO TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM.

4. THEY ALSO NOTED CAREFULLY LANGUAGE IN PARA EIGHT REGARDING LEBANON. PRESIDENT REMARKED THAT PRESS HAD REPORTED BEGIN HAD AGREED TO PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT CARTER THAT UN FORCES BE DEPLOYED IN SOUTH LEBANON AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION IN THAT RESPECT. I SAID ALL WE KNEW WAS WHAT HAD BEEN ON RADIO AND IN PRESS. DAYAN HAD, HOWEVER, TOLD AMBASSADOR LEWIS THAT PERHAPS UN FORCE WOULD BE WAY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF SOUTH.

5. COMMENT: DO NOT KNOW WHAT SARKIS AND BOUTROS EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF BEGIN TALKS, BUT THEY CLEARLY NOT VERY ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEGIN VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MOPS, XF, IS, US, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
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